

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-9 and 28-30 without prejudice.

1-9 (Cancelled)

10. (Original) A method, comprising:

dispatching a bus transaction from a requestor to a device;

starting a timer;

determining if the timer expires before the device responds to the dispatched bus transaction; and

issuing a deferred transaction response to the requestor if the timer expires.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein starting occurs only if an in-order-queue has a depth of 1.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein issuing includes issuing an unconditionally deferred transaction.

13. (Original) An apparatus, comprising:

a command dispatcher coupled to a command queue;

a detector coupled to the command dispatcher to detect if a command dispatched to the command queue by the command dispatcher has been responded to;

a timer coupled to the detector; and

logic coupled to the timer to issue a deferred response to the requestor if the timer expires before the command has been responded to.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the logic includes logic to issue the deferred response if an in-order-queue has a depth of 1.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the timer is a programmable timer.

16. (Original) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions, which when executed by at least one machine cause said at least one machine to perform:

receiving a bus transaction from a requestor to a device;

starting a timer;

determining if the timer expires before the device responds to the dispatched bus transaction; and

issuing a deferred transaction response to the requestor if the timer expires.

17. (Original) The medium of claim 16, wherein starting occurs only if an in-order-queue has a depth of 1.

18. (Original) The medium of claim 16, wherein issuing includes issuing an unconditionally deferred transaction.

19. (Original) A method, comprising:
determining if write data buffer space and command buffer space are available for an initial locked memory read transaction that is potentially within programmable attribute map space;
dispatching the read transaction if the write data buffer space and command buffer space are available; and
issuing a delayed transaction response if the write data buffer space and command buffer space are not available.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein determining includes determining if the write data buffer space and command buffer space are available in a downstream queue.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein dispatching includes dispatching to the downstream queue.

22. (Original) An apparatus, comprising:
- a command dispatcher coupled to a destination queue;
 - a detector coupled to the destination queue to detect if the write data buffer space and command buffer space are available for use by an initial locked memory read transaction that is potentially within programmable attribute map space ;
 - logic coupled to the command dispatcher to dispatch the read transaction if the write data buffer space and command buffer space are available; and
 - logic coupled to the command dispatcher to convert the transaction to a delayed transaction if the write data buffer space and command buffer space are not available.
23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the destination queue is a downstream queue.
24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the command dispatcher includes an in-order queue.
25. (Original) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions, which when executed by at least one machine cause said at least one machine to perform:
- determining if write data buffer space and command buffer space are available for an initial locked memory read transaction that is potentially within programmable attribute map space;

dispatching the read transaction if the write data buffer space and command buffer space are available; and

issuing a delayed transaction response if the write data buffer space and command buffer space are not available.

26. (Original) The medium of claim 25, wherein determining includes determining if the write data buffer space and command buffer space are available in a downstream queue.

27. (Original) The medium of claim 26, wherein dispatching includes dispatching to the downstream queue.

28-30 (Cancelled)